

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2287 without my signature.

I believe that acupuncture, when used in accordance with medical guidelines, should be an available treatment to injured workers. Unfortunately, changes made to workers' compensation law in before I became Governor have led to the inadvertent deletion of acupuncture as a generally accepted treatment for workers' compensation injuries. Although acupuncture treatment is still available, some have complained of difficulties in securing the necessary authorization in the absence of treatment guidelines.

Although I support the intention of this bill, I cannot support codifying treatment guidelines for specific types of treatment. This undermines current law, which allows the Division of Workers' Compensation to review scientifically-based, peer reviewed evidence for adopting treatment guidelines.

Because of the importance of acupuncture treatment, I am directing the Division of Workers' Compensation to take whatever steps necessary to expedite the development of medical treatment guidelines and ensure that acupuncture regains its rightful place as a readily-available treatment for injured workers.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger